GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1510
ANSWERED ON:10.03.2008
NUMBER OF TELEPHONE SUBSCRIBERS
Athawale Shri Ramdas

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of telephone subscribers in the country especially in Delhi as on date, State-wise;

(b) whether the number of telephone consumers is decreasing in various regions of the country especially in Delhi;

(c) if so, the decline registered in the number of telephone subscribers in various telecom regions of the country especially in Delhi as on date, alongwith the reasons therefore; Circle- wise, SSA-wise;

(d) whether the Government has taken any steps to improve telecommunications services in the country; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD)

(a) The number of telephone subscribers in the country and in Delhi, as on 31.01.2008, is 281.62 million and 17.96 million respectively. The telecom Circle-wise/State-wise number of telephone subscribers, as on 31.01.2008, are given in the Annexure.

(b) & (c) The data is being maintained telecom Circle-wise and no decline in number of telephone subscribers has been registered in any of the telecom Circles including Delhi.

(d) & (e) Yes, Sir. The following steps are being taken by the Government to improve telecommunication services in the country:

(i) Support is being provided by Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) for provisioning of Rural Direct Exchange Lines (RDELs), Village Public Telephones (VPTs) in 66,822 undisputed accessible and inhabited villages having population more than 100 and to set up 7871 number of infrastructure sites (towers) spread over 500 districts spread over 27 states, for provision of mobile services in the specified rural and remote areas, where there is no existing fixed wireless or mobile coverage in the country.

(ii) More Base Transceivers Station (BTS) are planned by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) to enhance the coverage of Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) System.

(iii) Deployment of Mobile Network along all the Highways by BSNL to give incidental coverage to large parts of rural areas.

(iv) Mobile network is being monitored for traffic congestion, optimized and necessary corrective measures are taken by BSNL to improve the Quality of Service.

(v) Expansion of Cellular Mobile Network by BSNL and MTNL to overcome the network congestion caused due to ever growing demand and traffic.

(vi) Improvement of the outdoor network by BSNL and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) by change of cables, drop wire etc. as required to reduce the fault rate.

(vii) MTNL is providing a number of Value Added Services for both Landline & Mobile subscribers such as news, songs, astrology, e-ticketing, Short Message Service (SMS), Voice SMS, Internet, Broadband, Internet Protocol Television (IPTV) etc.

(viii) MTNL is also taking care of its customers by opening customer service centres, appointment of dealers & agents etc.